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21 September 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Information for General Maxwell D. Taylor

1. On 20 September 1961, at General Taylor's request, [redacted] (Deputy Director, NPIC) and I discussed informally with General Taylor the extent of KH coverage of the Soviet Union. This problem area had come to General Taylor's mind because another party, in discussing Soviet ICBM deployment, had indicated that we had "seen" photographically only about 10% of the area of the Soviet Union. Following our conversation, General Taylor asked that we summarize in a memorandum the information which we had given him.

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2. We advised General Taylor that it is difficult to provide meaningful statistics on area coverage because of major variations in interpretation of cloud cover and photographic quality, and, further, because there is not necessarily a direct parallel between percent of areas not "seen" and missiles yet to be uncovered. Nevertheless we felt that the figure of 10% was grossly low by any standard.

3. Other comments and information provided to General Taylor were generally along the following lines:

a. Using various cloud criteria and approximate computations based on our plots of photography, percentages of cover are as follows:

| % Cloud Cover | % Soviet Union Covered |
|---|---|
| 0 - 10% | 30% |
| 0 - 25% | 40% |
| 0 - 50% | 50% |

We did not have statistical data for areas where cloud cover exceeds 50%. This increases the above figures considerably, and it is important to note that many of our MRBM and ICBM sites have actually been located in areas where cloud cover exceeds 50%.

[redacted]

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b. The current draft of NIE 11-8-61, based both on data from NPIC and independent judgments, indicates that we have good intelligence coverage (photographic and other) of about 50% of the railroad route mileage in the USSR. The same draft indicates that we have more than 50% intelligence coverage of those areas of the USSR within which ICBM deployment is most likely.

c. General Taylor asked about the relationship between areas covered and most likely locations for ICBM deployment, with the idea of narrowing the area of search. We answered his question in general terms, indicating that GMAIC maintained a list of possible or potential ICBM site locations based on other intelligence and that we had "seen" a high percentage of the GMAIC target areas. The exact figures, taken from a recent GMAIC memo to the USIB (16 Aug 61) are summarized below. These figures do not contain the results of the last two missions because GMAIC has not yet up-dated their report.

| | GMAIC Category | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Confirmed | Probable | Possible | Undetermined | Doubtful or Negative | Total |
| No. of Sites | | | | | | |
| No. covered by KH | | | | | | |
| No. not seen | | | | | | |

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It should be noted that most sites not yet seen fall in categories rated by GMAIC as doubtful or negative from other evidence.

d. The question arose of the nature of the ICBM's deployed from the sites located by photography. It was explained that this could not be definitely established by photography to date, but that based on other intelligence many members of the intelligence community felt that the ICBM sites of the Yurya type were for a second generation missile which was still undergoing testing at Tyura Tam and was not yet operational.





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c. General Taylor asked if one could draw an analogy between the percentage of MRBM site locations on photography and the percentage of ICBM locations. He noted that we have found MRBM's in numbers which correspond to estimates of current force levels; consequently it would seem that we may well have seen a corresponding high percentage of ICBM sites. He indicated to him that this was indeed a possible parallel, but that we had better photographic coverage of probable MRBM areas and that the analogy could not be drawn with any certainties as to accuracy. There then followed a brief discussion of weather and the difficulties of obtaining cloud-free coverage of highly suspect areas west of the northern Urals.

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ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL
Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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